

What Happens Next

Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study

- Atlantic Richfield Company will submit a draft Remedial Investigation Report summarizing the nature and extent of contamination, including Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessments.
- Based on the RI Report, a Feasibility Study will be developed to evaluate options for remaining contamination.

Early Final Remedial Action: Year-Round Capture of Five Primary Sources of Acid Mine Drainage

- EPA will develop and release for public comment a Proposed Plan for the EFRA.
- After responding to public comments, EPA will issue a Record of Decision.
- EPA and the Responsible Parties will negotiate a Consent Decree for Remedial Design and Remedial Action.

For More Information

Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California Role:

EPA's Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes discusses EPA's responsibility to consult with tribes and consider their interests when taking action that may affect them or their resources. EPA works with the Washoe Tribe and provides funding through a cooperative agreement to facilitate meaningful involvement.

Talk with one of the EPA or Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California representatives:

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Remedial Project Manager
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Visit the Information Repository located at:

EPA Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne St., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Be included on the Leviathan Mine Superfund site mailing list by contacting Freyja Knapp.

Websites:
Leviathan Mine Superfund Site – <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/leviathanmine>

Leviathan Mine Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • Oct 2022

History and Timeline

Background

Leviathan Mine is an abandoned open-pit sulfur mine. The mine is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Lake Tahoe high on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, in a remote portion of northeastern Alpine County, CA surrounded by national forest and private land. The acid mine drainage (AMD) from Leviathan Mine has historically contaminated a nine-mile stretch of the Leviathan-Bryant Creek watershed, impacting Leviathan, Aspen, and Bryant Creeks, as well as the East Fork Carson River. In 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the mine and the impacted areas (the “Superfund site”) to the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is the list of the most complex, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites throughout the United States that threaten public health and the environment.

The historical activities from the Leviathan Mine have created AMD, impacting the surrounding environment. Sulfuric acid is created when water (rainwater, snowmelt and subsurface water) interacts with rocks containing sulfur-bearing minerals. The resulting highly acidic water moves into the surrounding environment, such as the groundwater, surface water and soil, and may have harmful effects on humans, animals and plants.

Although a long-term cleanup plan has not been developed, early cleanup activities are being conducted to reduce the discharge of untreated AMD. In the mid-1980s, the Pollution Abatement Project began which included re-grading the site, building evaporation ponds, and channeling the creek. Interim treatment systems have greatly improved the water quality of the Leviathan-Bryant Creek watershed.

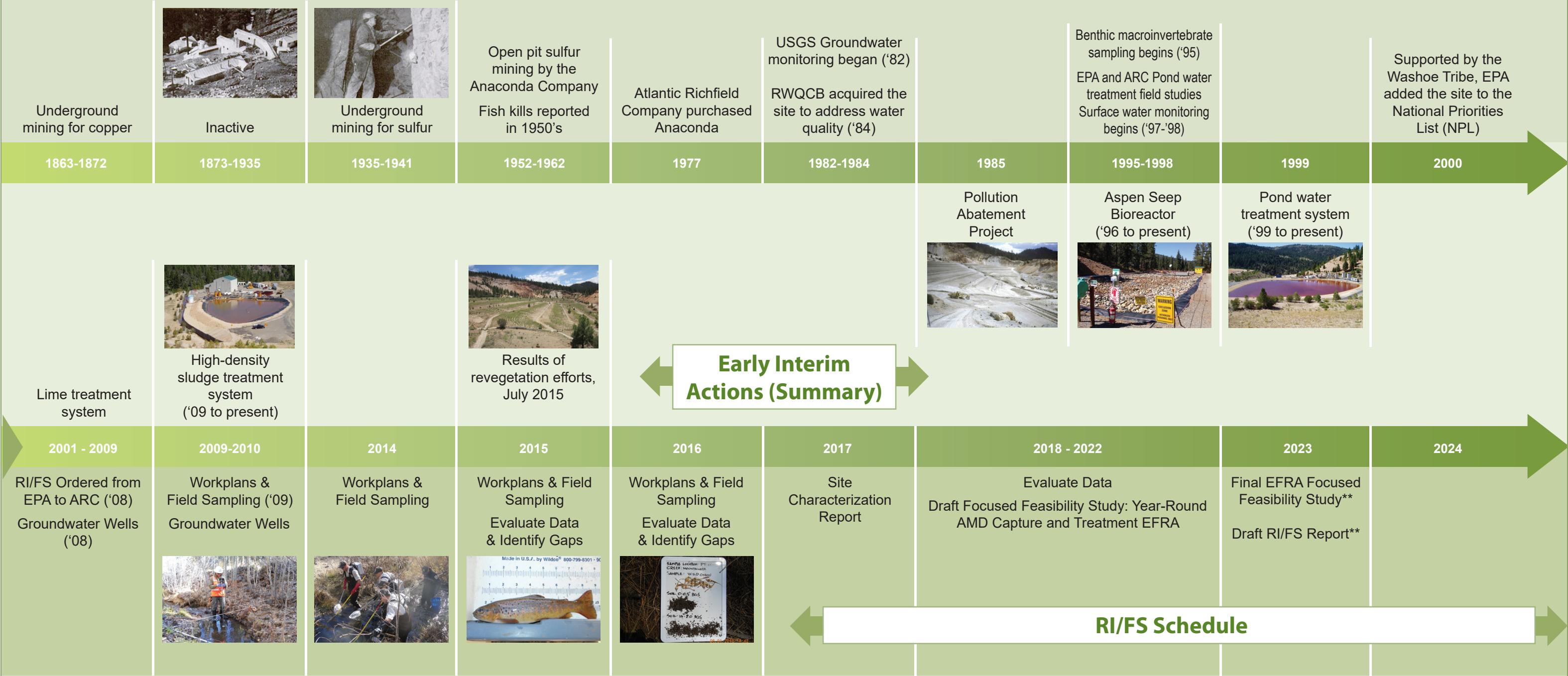
Figure 1: Leviathan Mine Superfund Site Location

Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)

When highly acidic water that is rich in metals moves (or drains) out of a mined area into the environment

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Timeline for the Leviathan Mine Superfund Site



Treatment System Achievements 1999-2021

	CA RWQCB	ARC	TOTAL	
Water Treated	166,053,904	210,645,233	376,699,137	Gallons
Aluminum Removed	570,900	79,046	649,946	Pounds
Arsenic Removed	8,751	438	9,189	Pounds
Iron Removed	891,872	343,352	1,235,224	Pounds
Nickel Removed	9,297	1,783	11,080	Pounds

Acronyms

RWQCB – California Regional Water Quality Control Board
USGS – United States Geological Survey
ARC – Atlantic Richfield Company
EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency
EFRA – Early Final Remedial Actions
RI/FS – Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

****Proposed Schedule**